



VICTORY

FLASHES

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from **MUHLENBERG**

Dear Mules:

The greatest football season in the history of Muhlenberg College ended last Saturday when the gridiron machine of 1946 under the tutelage of Coaches Floyd "Ben" Schwartzwalder, Frank "Hoss" Lough and Clyde "Bud" Barker met the Blue Hens of Delaware on Wilmington Field, Wilmington, Delaware. The Score, Delaware 20, Muhlenberg 12, does not tell the story and for some time to come, whenever Muhlenberg men are gathered together, this game will be played and replayed until far into the night.

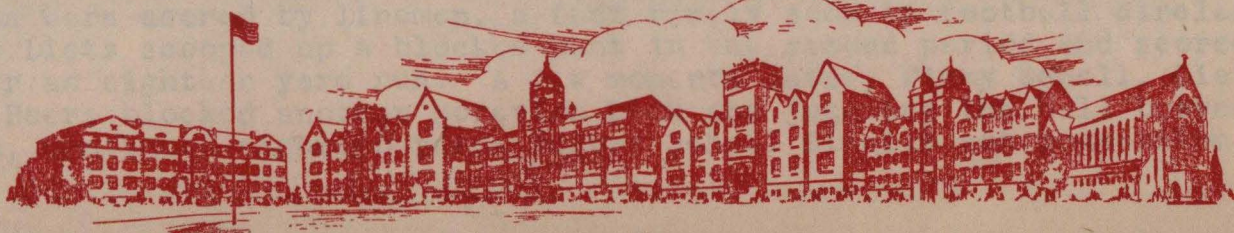
To say that it was a great game, is an understatement. One sport's writer called it the best game of the entire 1946 football season. All of the fans who travelled to Delaware were unanimous in saying that it was one of the most thrilling they had ever seen, that it had everything packed into it, and that it was worth going to Wilmington to see.

Termed the Army-Navy duel of "B" football, and supposedly carrying, for the winner, the mythical national small college title, the game was replete with thrills from start to finish. Delaware was rated a slight edge to win the game, for their impressive record of 29 straight games was at stake and they were shooting for a bowl bid. Muhlenberg had been picked to win by several sports writers on the basis of the fine record compiled by this year's eleven. Thousands of words were written about the game in many papers and so great was the interest, that representatives of 64 papers plus a news reel service were in the press box when game time arrived. Fifteen thousand fans jammed every nook and corner of the Wilmington ball park and thousands were unable to get tickets, which, incidentally, were selling at scalpers prices, something new for Muhlenberg football. This crowd was the largest ever to witness a sporting event in the state of Delaware.

But, enough of the preliminaries. You have probably been following all the pre-game publicity and now you want to know the real story. Here it is. It was Delaware's reserve power that decided an otherwise close game. The Blue Hens were able to shoot a dozen or more good hard charging backs into the ball game, each performing as brilliantly as the men replaced. Resorting almost entirely to straight football throughout the entire game, the winners tore through the Mules for big gains. They attempted only five forward passes and completed two for a gain of twenty yards.

Muhlenberg, on the other hand, with Bill Bell doing some of the greatest passing of his football career, heaved 27 passes and completed 12 for a gain of 128 yards through the air. Our passing attack more than balanced the Delaware running attack with the result that Muhlenberg was right in the ball game from start to finish.

True to the form that they have displayed each game this season, the Mules scored in the opening minutes of play, and had this score been allowed, the entire complexion of the game might have been changed. After the opening kickoff, the Mules stopped Delaware and then marched from their own 37 to the three yard line. There a penalty set them back to the eight yard marker. Bill Bell tossed a pass to Dizzy Dean, but the officials ruled that Dean caught the ball outside the end zone and then stepped back on the playing field, and since it



was fourth down, Delaware took over. The Blue Hens then scored after a drive down the field and Delaware led 6-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Five times in the game, Muhlenberg made brilliant goal line stands, taking the ball from their opponents when it looked as though a score was imminent. The first of these came midway in the second period when the Mules took over on their own four yard line. Here was the second break for Delaware. On the first play after taking over on the four, Muhlenberg fumbled and Delaware recovered on our five. On the second play after the recovery, Delaware scored their second touchdown and led 13-0 at the half.

Roaring back in the third period the way they did against Lafayette, the Mules with Bell heaving passes, Crider swinging around the ends, and Sikorski going off tackle, slashed and passed their way to the one yard stripe from where Crider went over for the first touchdown. Barker's placement was blocked and the score stood 13-6. Twice more in the third period, the Mules made goal line stands and took over. It was on one of these stands, on third down, that Muhlenberg completed one of the most daring plays of the entire game. Dizz Dean dropped back of his goal line in kick formation, but instead of punting, the Mules worked the old statue of Liberty play, Crider coming around to take the ball and moved out to the 17 before he was downed. On the next play, Bell passed to Dean for 33 yards and Muhlenberg was moving right down the field, until one of Bell's passes was intercepted on Delaware's 20.

Again the Delaware steamroller moved into action and they scored in the fourth period. Muhlenberg came right back and on a 12 yard run by Jack Crider, a 15 yard pass, Bell to Bibighaus, a 23 yard run by Bell, took the ball to the Delaware 10. Here after two passes, Bell passed to co-captain Sikorski for the touchdown. Again Barker's try for the extra point was blocked, and in trying to make the point, big "Garge" Bibighaus was hurt and carried off the field on a stretcher. George's injury was not too severe and he will be back in circulation soon.

Jack Crider became the leading collegiate scorer in Pennsylvania after the game yesterday, when he boosted his total points for the season to 90 to lead all backs. He also practically clinched the Eastern College scoring title, for unless Glen Davis of Army roams for three touchdowns against Navy or Tony Minisi scores six against Cornell, Jack is tops. Jack has played a wonderful game all season for the Mules and is deserving of these high honors.

This season's win of eight games was the longest in the history of the College. In 1921, 1922, and 1926 the Mules won seven games in succession, but never have they defeated eight opponents in any one season. Another record was broken with 282 points for nine games. The best record to date was 1924 and 1926 with 243 season points in ten games.

When we played Moravian, which I'll tell you about a bit later, the spirit of the students was increased by the presence of Tommy, the Mule. Tommy, who made his debut at that game, was loaned to the College by a friendly farmer and transportation was arranged for him to the game on Saturday. His mane neatly trimmed and his tail bobbed by his driver, Bill Hepburn and Dean of Students, Perry F. Kendig (by moonlight, no less), Tommy attracted quite a bit of attention as he dragged a dead hen about the field before the game.

Delaware has turned down a bid for the Sugar Bowl and instead, will probably play Rollins College in the Tobacco Bowl. Murray, the Delaware coach, figures that his team stands a better chance in one of the smaller bowl games.

The second last game of the season saw the Greyhounds of Moravian College bowing to the Mules by a score of 47-0. Five thousand persons saw the Mules close their home season as Bell, Crider, Sikorski and Co. struck often and hard to make it eight straight. Two touchdowns were scored by linemen, a feat rarely seen in football circles. Milt Dietz scooped up a blocked punt in the second period and scored after an eighteen yard run. A few moments later, Jimmy Schell, Dietz and Beers blocked another Moravian kick and juggling the ball between them, continued eighteen yards before Schell finally got possession

of the ball across the goal line. Early in the third quarter, Dizz Dean intercepted a shovel pass in the Moravian backfield and scored. Altogether, the Mules had too much power for Larry Rosatti's boys.

Muhlenberg has had another championship, for the soccer team came back from Hoboken, N.J. with a 2-0 victory over Stevens Tech and the championship of the North Atlantic Intercollegiate Soccer League tucked under its belt. Soccer is the main sport at the Hoboken engineering school which has no football team, and there was a large crowd on hand to watch the rough game. Charles "Chili" Altemose, who ended his first season as coach of the Mules, plans to recommend Charlie Campbell for All-American at the coming coaches' meeting and has this to say about the squad: "It was the first time many of the fellows had ever played soccer and they really fought to win this last game. They all deserve a lot of praise." Stevens finished second with Rutgers third and Lafayette fourth.

Although Muhlenberg may not get to play in any of the bowl games, we are having some "bowl" games right here on the campus. Last week saw the "Pansy" bowl with the frosh defeating the sophs in a two handed touch game, 27-12. This game marked the resumption of the series which has been played since the 1890's but was ended with the start of World War II. The annual "Sin" bowl game between the pre-meds and the pre-theos will be played this week. Bill Ritter is handling the arrangements for the inter-class games, and can still move around the field, although he has some helpers now.

A break in the principal water lines which serve the campus caused some consternation a couple of Sundays ago. It was necessary to turn off the water and bank the fires, leaving the dormitories cold and causing "Haps" to get a hose from a home on 26th street to provide water for his freshmen in West Hall. Emergency rations were served in the Commons and the trouble was soon remedied to the satisfaction of all.

The basketball squad has unanimously chosen Oscar "Red" Baldwin as captain for the coming season. Muhlenberg opens with Moravian at Rockne Hall on December 4th. "Red" led the Muhlenberg team throughout the rough road of the Middle Atlantic playoffs last season and was high scorer for the Mules when they advanced to the semi-finals in the National Invitation tournament. Baldwin was unanimous choice for the 1945 All-Pennsylvania collegiate basketball team.

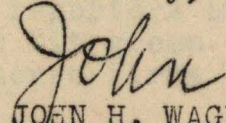
Coach Clyde "Bud" Barker has been drilling his squad nightly at Rockne Hall and reports being favorably impressed with Jake Bornheimer and Big Nick McGee. He feels that Red was the logical choice for the captaincy.

Dean and Mrs. Sherwood R. Mercer and Dean Perry F. Kendig met the official faculty family of Muhlenberg the other night when President and Mrs. Levering Tyson entertained for them at an informal reception at the president's home on the campus. Nearly two hundred guests were present. Although Dean Mercer has been on the campus since last August, his family has just arrived in Allentown and are living in the former Bernheim home.

Somehow, the mail bag is rather thin this time. Perhaps it is because you have all been so busy talking about the team, that you haven't had time to write. We are still looking for your letters and will pass on the word as soon as we receive it.

We're coming to the end of the page, so it's so long for this time. In another two weeks I'll give you the news about the basketball squad. Until then - - good luck.

Cordially,


JOHN H. WAGNER
Alumni Secretary